

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 and 25-30 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner with Claims 24 standing cancelled and Claims 31-38 standing withdrawn from consideration.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Turning now to the art rejections, Claims 1-11, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farnworth '899; Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Farnworth '899 in view of Hsu; and Claims 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Farnworth '899 in view of Farnworth '186.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Farnworth '899 does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including a portion electrically connecting a portion of the first metal layer in the first area to a portion of the first metal layer in the second area thereby extending the scribe area in independent Claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that Farnworth '899 discloses that the two devices on each integrated circuit die are connected by a metal layer referring to element 42.

Further, the Examiner alleges that the metal layers 46 test circuitry extend into the scribe line areas and connect both areas to the first and second integrated circuit dies.

However, notwithstanding the allegations of the Examiner, the test circuitry 46 allows connection to each die area but does not allow an electrical connection between the two die areas.

Whether or not Hsu discloses a reticle and whether one of ordinary skill in the art would consider modifying Farnworth '899 is of no moment since the resulting construction would still in no way disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention.

With respect to Farnworth '186, this rejection is now moot since Claims 25-28 have either been allowed or cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the indication that if Claims 12, 13, 17, and 29 were rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, these claims would be allowable.

By the instant amendment, Claims 12, 13, 17, and 29 have been placed in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

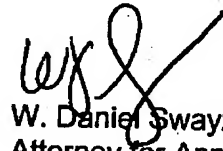
Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 14-16, 18-21, 25-28, and 30 by virtue of their dependency from an allowed claim are now allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance; should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

  
W. Daniel Swayze, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 34,478

Texas Instruments Incorporated  
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999  
Dallas, TX 75265  
(972) 917-5633